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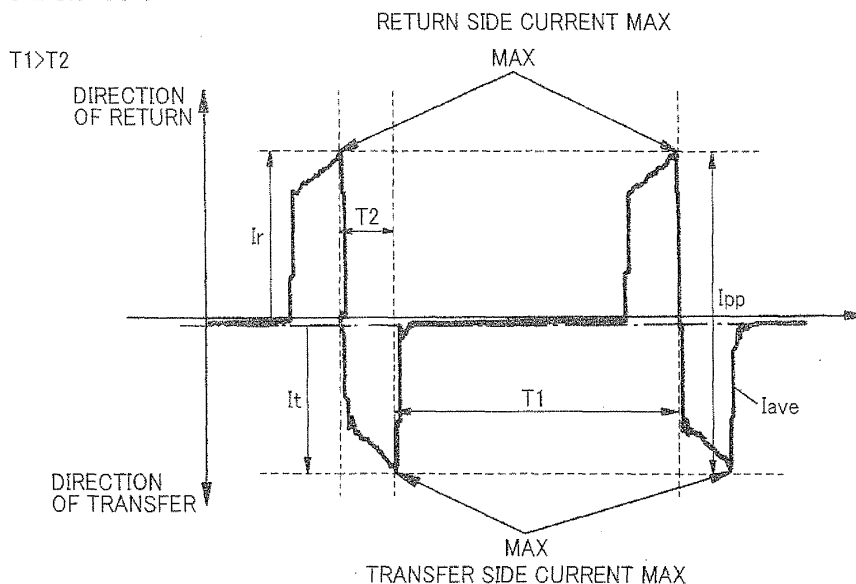
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(54) **Transfer device and image forming apparatus including same**

(57) A transfer device includes a rotatable image bearing member to bear a toner image on a surface thereof, a nip forming member to contact the surface of the image bearing member, and a bias output device to output a bias current to alternately form a transfer-direction electric field to transfer toner charged with a normal polarity in a toner image formed on the image bearing member to move therefrom to a recording medium and a re-

turn-direction electric field to return the toner from the recording medium to the image bearing member. A transition time T1 from a first time at which a current for forming the transfer-direction electric field reaches its maximum (It) to a second time at which a current for forming the return-direction electric field reaches its maximum (Ir) is longer than a transition time T2 from the second time to the first time.

FIG. 3A



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 5 October 2017	Examiner Pavón Mayo, Manuel
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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